

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
AUGUST 18, 2000

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, August 18, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., in room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

Members Absent: Veldore Heidelberg and Jimmy Murphy.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry L. Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Jason Pugh, Danny Seal, and Dr. Wayne Stonecypher.

Guest in attendance: Edward Moore, former member of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration; Janet Moore; Robert Beasley, member of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration; James Robertson, Wise, Carter, Child, and Caraway; Andy Kanengiser, the Clarion Ledger, and Clarence Lovelady, Mississippi State Department of Education.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Yvonne Brown gave the invocation.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PRESENTATION FOR MR. EDWARD "SPEEDY" MOORE

Mr. Walker presented a plaque and letter of commendation to Edward "Speedy" Moore in recognition of his service as a member of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration (CPSCR) from July 1992 through June 2000.

Mr. Walker also recognized and welcomed Bob Beasley who has been appointed to serve on the CPSCR.

Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2000, Board Meeting

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2000, meeting.

Mr. Walker recognized Mr. Jimmy Robertson, of Wise, Carter, Child and Caraway, who updated the Board on recent developments in the IHL-Gulf Park lawsuit. Mr. Robertson stated that on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, the Mississippi Supreme Court granted IHL's request for an interlocutory appeal for two rulings by Judge Singletary in April of 2000. The Board entered into a discussion with Mr. Robertson related to possible procedures and timelines for anticipated action.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray reported on a meeting with post-secondary vocational/technical directors to discuss issues related to transferring post-secondary vocational/technical education from the Mississippi State Department of Education to the SBCJC.

Dr. Ray also reported on information staff had received from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) related to possible cuts in House Bill 400 monies for the current fiscal year. If cuts are made, the SBCJC will be asked to notify DFA on how cuts will be affected.

SBCJC Director of Distance Education, Jason Pugh, gave the Board a status report on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). He stated that a total of 1,382 students were enrolled in the MSVCC during Spring 2000. These students were enrolled statewide in 53 course sections of 29 unique courses taught by 44 instructors statewide. During the Summer 2000 session, 931 students were enrolled in 67 course sections with 49 instructors participating across the state. Current Fall 2000 enrollment figures are changing by the minute. As of 8:30 a.m. today, the figures indicate that 2,334 students are enrolled. The active enrollment and registration period will end on September 5, 2000, and formal figures will be available at that time.

Mr. Pugh stated that a request for proposal is being prepared to aid in having all the courses necessary to offer an Associates Degree on-line to be available by the Spring 2001 Session. Discussions are being held with Mississippi's universities to possibly expand the MSVCC program into possibly enrollment partnerships. Mr. Pugh stated that his goal is to increase workforce training and vocational/technical training offerings through the MSVCC. Also, an outside funding source to provide for a needs assessment of the MSVCC is being sought to provide information on student profiles and to explore better ways in which to help under-represented students.

Mr. Pugh invited the Board to visit the MSVCC virtual campus through their local community or junior college distance learning coordinator or through his office. His philosophy for the MSVCC is that on-line education is being market driven, that the State of Mississippi must actively and aggressively pursue on-line education, and that the best means to accomplish this is through the MSVCC.

Dr. Ray reported on visits with editorial boards across the State and distributed a copy of a schedule of future meetings (Exhibit A). Mr. Walker complimented Dr. Ray for initiating these meetings that highlights attributes of Mississippi's community and junior colleges.

Dr. Ray shared thank you notes from Hazel Terry and Veldore Heidelberg for the Board's review.

Dr. Ray presented an invitation from TeleSouth Communications, Inc., to hold a future SBCJC meeting at their Jackson office. Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to decline the invitation from TeleSouth Communications, Inc.

Dr. Ray reported that new SBCJC members, Veldore Heidelberg and Jimmy Murphy, are both continuing to do well following surgery.

Dr. Ray announced that Dr. Tom Layzell, Dr. Richard Thompson, and he would appear on the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television's Learning Exchange Program on Monday, August 28, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss critical issues in light of predicted money shortages.

Dr. Ray stated that hearings have been scheduled prior to the Monday August 28, 2000, Governor's Special Called Legislative Session to address an economic development plan for Mississippi. Dr. Ray has received a request to attend the hearings to answer questions in preparation for the special session. A legislative bill is being drafted for the special session. Joanna Heidel asked SBCJC staff to review the bill as soon as it is available and keep Board members apprised of the impact on community and junior colleges and workforce training efforts.

REPORTS/ACTION

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown updated the Board on items discussed at an EdNet Board meeting held on July 25, 2000. Mrs. Brown announced that Al Lind, IHL's Assistant Commissioner for Technology, has been appointed as interim EdNet President, and the search for a new president has begun. Walt Eilers and Cheryn Netz of Wireless Solutions presented an early contract proposal for consideration. The current contract expires January 2002; however, they presented the following reasons for their early proposal:

1. To amend the existing lease – (an analog lease-FCC now allows for 2-way service)
2. To assure that Wireless Solutions is not going away
3. To inform EdNet about the move to relocate Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) spectrum from 3-G prone
4. To share Berny Ebber's commitment to do a rural test in Hattiesburg and the technology test in Memphis in the near future
5. To announce that Worldcom will launch 50-100 data markets in 2001
6. To move expeditiously to get into communities first.

The EdNet Board has taken the contract proposal under consideration.

Mrs. Brown reported that Michael Gallagher announced that the SBCJC was one of two agencies that had completed the EdNet Needs Assessment. The survey was distributed to all ITFS license holders to secure information in preparation for contract negotiations. Dr. Evelyn Webb has distributed surveys to each of the fifteen community and junior colleges' technology and administrative staff members. These surveys were compiled and analyzed, and the results were forwarded to EdNet staff.

Mrs. Brown also reported that an EdNet Conference Planning committee met on July 26, 2000, to organize an event/forum to assist the EdNet Board in determining the best uses of Mississippi's ITFS licenses. Staff designees from each EdNet member agency, as well as representatives from the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and the Department of Information Technology Services attended the meeting. The past, present and future possibilities for the EdNet project were discussed along with a preliminary conference agenda. The meeting may be scheduled for the first week in September. A specific date will be announced pending discussion with conference speakers such as Patrick Gossman of the National ITFS Association.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 31, 2000, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4100 in the total amount of \$3,027,455 (Exhibit C).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of an upgrade to the present single-user, stand-alone database system to a web-based data reporting management system from G. R. C. & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$102,072.92 (Exhibit D).

Mrs. Fox presented for the Board's information financial statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 for the period ending June 30, 2000 (Exhibit E). No action was required.

In other business, Mr. Walker reported that copies of the fifteen (15) community and junior colleges' FY 2002 (MBR) Budget Requests, as well as the composite request and the SBCJC Request are available to each Board member. Copies may be requested from Deborah Gilbert.

Mr. Walker announced that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee hearing for the SBCJC has been set for September 13, 2000, at 3:00 p.m. Representatives from the State Workforce Development Council will follow join college and SBCJC personnel in presenting the workforce budget.

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to hold the September meeting on September 13, and 14, 2000. The meeting on September 14, 2000, will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Policy Actions

Dr. Olon Ray presented the SBCJC Proposed Standard for Non-duplication of Upper-Level Programs for the Board's action (Exhibit F). Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the proposed Standard for Non-duplication of Upper-Level Programs with changes recommended through public input as a part of the Administrative Procedures Act and, that in implementing the Standard for Non-duplication of Upper-Level Programs, the SBCJC Executive Director shall develop a system for assuring that the intent of this policy is served and the system shall include a timely notification to any community and junior college which the SBCJC, in its best judgment, considers to be in violation of said policy

and, shall also include a provision whereby the college in question shall have the opportunity to show that its action is not inconsistent with this Standard.

Dr. Ray then presented the SBCJC Workforce Project Guidelines for the Board's action (Exhibit G). Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC Workforce Project Guidelines.

Dr. Ray presented for the Board's review, Operational Policies, Procedures, and Positions for the Mississippi Virtual Community College (Exhibit H). Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to begin the Administrative Procedures process on the Operational Policies, Procedures, and Positions for the Mississippi Virtual Community College.

Invitation for Board Meeting at Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Dr. Ray presented an invitation from Dr. Howell Garner, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, to meet at the Wesson Campus in September. Due to the change in the September meeting date to coincide with the LBO hearings, the Board directed Dr. Ray to see if they could visit in November.

Program Committee

Joanna Heidel made a motion, seconded by John Junkin, to approve a request from Hinds Community College, to offer PSC 1113, American National Government; SOC 2113, Introduction to Sociology; HIS 2213, American History I, and HIS 1113, Western Civilization I as telecourses on EdNet beginning with the Fall 2000 session. Motion passed unanimously.

Joanna Heidel made a motion, seconded by Lawrence Warren, to approve a request from Mississippi Delta Community College to expand their Machine Tool Technology program to include an Associate Degree level option. Motion passed unanimously.

Joanna Heidel made a motion, seconded by John Junkin, to approve a request from Southwest Mississippi Community College to offer a Health Care Assistant Program. Motion passed unanimously

Workforce Education

Mr. Walker updated the Board on the activities discussed at the August 2000, State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting. Mr. Walker announced that the Lieutenant Governor has appointed two new individuals to the SWDC, Mr. Billy Howard and Mr. Neal Fowler.

Mr. Walker reported that the "Lean Manufacturing" program is continuing to go forward.

Consideration of Change in Date/Time for Regular Board Meeting

The Board held a discussion considering a possible change in the regularly scheduled meeting time and date. Mr. Walker asked that SBCJC members consider alternate dates in order to make suggestions at the September Board meeting. He requested that the item be placed on the September Agenda for further review and possible action.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, seconded by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

George Walker for attending the State Workforce Development Council meeting on September 13, economic development meetings in Jackson on August 23 – 25, and an editorial board meeting in Hattiesburg on August 17, 2000.

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet Board meeting on July 25, 2000.

GED Report

Danny Seal gave the Board an update on the activities of the GED office. During the month of July the GED office issued 1,422 transcript requests. Mr. Seal reported that in an average month, 750-800 transcripts are issued. In July 751 individuals took the GED Test. Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Director of the GED office, has invited the Board to take a tour of the GED On-line class offered by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at a future Board meeting in Jackson. National interest in this virtual class has been sparked and the site has received over 1000 hits since the beginning. All libraries around the State now have computers with Internet access and can enter the GED site. Currently the GED office is working with the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) office to offer this tool as an assessment guide for GED preparation on-line.

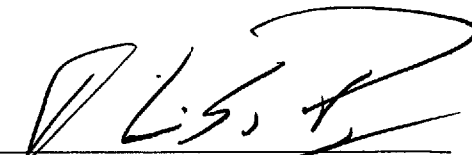
Other

Dr. Ray reported that an Attorney General's Opinion stated that per diem may not be paid to Board members appointed in the interim period between Legislative Sessions prior to confirmation; however, travel expenses may be reimbursed to the appointees during that time.

ADJOURNMENT

John Junkin made a motion, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray
Executive Director